

Specific Military Actions

5/20/54 - 7/15/54 Incident: Guatemala 54

Date:

7/10/54

4

Unit	Actions	Initiated	Terminated	Revealing Source
Surface ships, air, submarines of U.S. Atlantic Fleet ↓ VP5, VP10, VP23, VP34, VPH5, 4DDs, 1APD, 2SS 1CVS, 1ACC, 1APF, 1LST, 3APDs, 1AO, 1Marine Battalion	surveillance of Gulf of Honduras adjacent Caribbean to identify ships carrying munitions to Guatemala list of suspect ships - escort them to Panama for inspection (none actually taken there, but several closely watched)	20 May, 54	30 June, 54	Annual Rept, Cmdr in Chief US Atlantic Fleet 12 April, 54 - 30 June 54
	unofficial, covert military assistance to rebels	6/18/54	6/30/64	"Short of War" documentation bibliography, U.S. Navy Special List # 1 IUCPS
USCG	checks ships from Soviet bloc ports	20 May, 54		NY Times index
USAF Caribbean Command	ready to evacuate US nationals	23 June, 54		St Rept - NY Times index
USAF plane	flies to rescue newsmen downed when trying to reach rebels; plane fired on	28 June, 54		"
USAF transports	fly arms to ^{Nicaragua} Guatemala Honduras under speeded-up arrangements following shipment of communist arms to Guatemala	24 May, 54		
US authorities in Hamburg, Ger.	hold up shipment of Swiss arms to Gerat.	12 June, 54		Tines 15 June 1:3, 4
Arbenz election				Times 12 Nov 50 24:3 13 Nov 50 9:6 14 Nov 50 16:1 12 Dec 50 15:3 " 28 June 54 1:8 2-1, 5

Source:

Lozano
Diaz

Incident: NICARAGUA
1954

Unit

Initiated

Terminated

Revealing Source

3 B-360

on goodwill flight

NYT

5/27 6:3

Source:

Specific Military ActionsIncident: Central America

Date:

Unit	Actions	Initiated	Terminated	Revealing Source
USMC 2nd Marine Aircraft wing	ordered to stand by to off Central America to be prepared to land security forces if necessary	July, 74		USMC Chron Vol III p 29 30

Source:

4 Cont

INCIDENT

Specific Military Actions

Incident: Honduras strikes 54

Date:

Unit	Actions	Initiated	Terminated	Revealing Source
CINCLANTFLT orders 2-54 for operation ↓ COMPHIBGRU 2, 1AGG 1APA, 1LST, 3APP, 4DD, 1AO, 1 Marine BV (reinforced), 1CVS w/ 15 helicopters, 8F4U, 2 TBAN 3R, 1 TACRON DET (TF 86)	Operation Hardrock Baker - evacuation of US nationals from Honduras & for Guatemala - stand-by	7 June 54		Annual Rept, Com in Chief, USATL Fleet, 12 April, 54 - 30 June 54
also 12 C47 aircraft	Operation Hardrock Baker initiated (fleet remains out of sight of land, aircraft readied) no action actually taken	18 June, 54	30 June 54	
Difficult incident U.S. Navy - 1 CVL, 4DDs, 1 DE, 1 APA, 1 AKA Wyandot (AKA) Hags (DE) Montevoy (CVL)	Operation called Snapdraggon in "Short of War" documentation bibliography, U.S. Navy) assist in flood relief protect American interests in unstable pol situation despatched to N. coast "Operation Salud"	24 Sept 54	12 Oct 54	

Source:

Specific Military Actions

~~GUATEMALA~~ - HONDURAS
Incident: _____

1954

Date: 1954

Unit	Actions	Initiated	Terminated	Revealing Source
2 nd BATTALION, 8 th MARINES	TROOPS ON BOARD USS MEZLETT ON CARIBBEAN MANEUVERS REMAINED AFLOAT OFF GUATEMALA PREPARED TO EVACUATE US NATIONALS & PROTECT AMERICAN PROPERTY WHEN CASTILLO ARMAZ LED AN INVASION FROM HONDURAS TO OVERTHROW THE COMMUN- IST INCLINED ARBEX GOVT. (see Guatemala)	7 JUNE	1 JULY	USMC CHRON VOL III p 29
USMC 2 nd MARINE AIRCRAFT WING (28)	ORDERED TO STAND BY OFF CENTRAL AMERICA AND BE PREPARED TO LAND SECURITY FORCES IF NECESSARY	JULY		IBID p 30

Source:

US expresses concern at shipment of weapons to Policy Context Guatemala 17 May; St Dept Incident: Guatemala 54
 [G: invaded by rebels organized by CIA - US prevent Guatemalan govt from importing arms to fight them]
 says may consider it threat to hemisphere under Rio Treaty; confers w Sweden (ship's registry) + UK (company that chartered ship) 18 May; US had refused to sell arms to country;

Diplomatic actions:

Official:	Form	Statements	To whom	Date
Pres. Eisenhower	press conf	calls shipment "disturbing"		19 May, 54
St. Dept		silent on Toriello charges		21 May, 54
"	statement	barred arms because of "obvious uncertainty" about their ultimate use		22 May, 54
Sec St Dulles	news conf	Arms may be used to create communist bastion near Panama Canal, makes Gva. dominant in Lat A.; considers threat to hemis. order; Gvat people as a whole not communist; that major concern, not troubles of United Fruit or other US companies		25 May, 54
Sec St Dulles	news conf	US favors special Amer. meeting, awaits others' views, stresses concern over comm. infiltration		8 June, 54
Pres Eisenhower	news conf	calls events disturbing		16 June, 54
St Dept		no evidence of invasion or bombing, only internal revolt - from Amlo Rev. for; continuing conferences w Lat Amer		19 June, 54
<u>Other actions:</u>				

Type of action	Date
said to be urging Latins to take lead	19 May, 54
signs arms military aid agreement w Honduras	21 May, 54
airlifts small arms to Honduras + Nicaragua as reaction to Gvat. arms purchase	24 May, 54
holds up legitimate shipment of Swiss anti-aircraft ammo from Hamburg, Ger. for Gvat; persuades Ger. shippers to cancel	14 June, 54
asks for free world arms embargo, right to search & seize allied ships	15 June, 54
James Reston cites CIA role	17 June, 54
	20 June, 54

St Dept
St Dept

denies knowledge of US pilots involved
declines to call Diaz regime anti-communist

21 June, 54
28 June, 54

UN replodge

USSR UN Sec Co "stay out" of hemisphere Times 21 June 54 1:8 USSR
see Times on Great-US talks to see if perceived force might
be used, asked that it not

Local Situation

Incident: Guatemala 54Target country: GuatemalaType of regime: republic / civil warNames and allegiances of prominent individuals: Col. Armas - insurgent^{in Honduras}, trying to establish non-communist govt. ~~declared pres 1964~~Pres Jacobo Arbenz - leader of former ("communist") govt. (elected 1950)GuzmanCol. Diaz - heads junta which replaces ArbenzMajor reaction to incident: Guat bars foreign press from reporting on (alleged 2,000 tons) arms shipment; country united w. US; Pres. Arbenz Guzman deposed by junta 28 June, 54; junta rules until Col. Castillo Armas elected pres. 1 Sept. 54

Toriello charges US ban on arms sale intended to leave govt defenceless against possible internal uprising or invasion by exiles; charges "aggression" - right to purchase arms where can 21 May; unidentified band tries to blow up arms shipment train 21 May, 54; Guat. nationalism rallies people to govt despite ^{their} fear of its communist ties; military closer to Arbenz because of new equipment. Toriello meets with Puritzky in attempt to resolve crisis ^(on US companies' complaints) 24 May; proposes non-aggression pact with Honduras; warns against again allowing exiles to drop propaganda leaflets, denies G. role in Honduran strikes 28 May, 54; V. Lombardo Toledano orders Latin-Am. Conf. to mobilize workers against US "attacks on Guatemala" 29 May, 54; Communist party urges unity against mounting US "imperialism" 31 May, 54; new Toriello - Puritzky talks on companies 1 June, 54; Col. Armas charges Soviet Union

Other Actors

over

Action

When

Moscow Radio charges US preparing attack on Guatemala

24 May, 54

TASS - US "assault" planned long ago

19 June 54

Pravda - US aggression, attempt to cause war in Latin America to increase world tension

20 June, 54

Others

Actor

Actions

When

Honduras

strikes (see Honduras strike 54) - protest demand G. non-aggression pact w. all Caribbean/Lat. Amer.

24 May 54 or earlier?

U.K.

discourages ships from carrying arms (Anthony Eden, Full Circle, p. 6)

May, 54

Nicaragua

breaks relations with Guatemala; considers calling OAS session to study ways to block spread of communism from Guatemala

19 May, 54

OAS

would probably support Guatemala

Mexico, Cuba

reported alarmed

24 May, 54

Costa Rica

proposes foreign ministers' meeting - US welcomes

26 May, 54

Honduras

rejects proposed non-aggression pact

10 June, 54

UK

studies US request to search ships; refuses, but pledges to aid embargo

8 17 June, 54

Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands reportedly opposed to US plan to search ships

France, Norway
Honduras

Mexico
Mexico, Chile, Nicaragua,

1961 US action, pledge to observe embargo
warns Castillo, Armas not to violate his refugee status or
prejudice Honduran neutrality
communists urge Mexico aid Govt govt
pro-boat govt demands

22 June, 54
18 June, 54.
18 June, 54
June 54

Govt govt ships arms to "popular militias" opposing govt in other L.A. countries 7 June, 54; Armas forces
invade 18 June, ~~the~~ Toriello says forces include Dom Reps, Cubans, Nicaraguans, etc; blames US, Nicaragua, United
Fruit; appeals to UN; Govt claims rebels use US-built planes; US pilots flying some 20 June, 54
Govt Army forces Arbenz to resign in favor of Col. Diaz; pledges to act against communists; Diaz & Toriello
meet w/ US Amb Peurifoy 27 June, 54 new cabinet formed, first official act is to ban comm party; state
of siege; fall of Arbenz linked to rebel air power; have met all rebel demands except arrest of Arbenz -
rebels continue attack; cease-fire talks with Castillo; pol-prisoners freed, communists arrested or flee; communist
paper closed; party under surveillance;
Manzon overthrews Diaz 29 June, 54

Incident: Guatemala 54

U. S. Objectives

Stated:

by whom:

Inferred:

by whom:

Outcome

According to U.S. policymakers (include anticipated applicability to similar situations):
political situation in Guatemala "eased for a number of years" anti-Comm govt. formed
restored stability in area; showed US readiness to protect US nationals & interests

according to target country:

according to outside observers:

NYTimes - Latin fears of US intervention revived; US prestige damaged

Pot. Targets ① Guatemala (Gov't - Arbenz) ② Guatemala (Insurgents - Armas)
③ Guatemala (Military?) ~~④ Honduras~~ ④ OAS ⑤ USSR
⑥ Honduras ⑦ Nicaragua

why exclude Honduras?

Preemptive incident: Copek who went to ...

~~NYTimes Honduras Govt/Guat military/Arbenz Govt in Guat~~

Targets: ① USSR ② Honduras ③ ... ④ USSR ⑤ Honduras ⑥ ... ?

Local SituationIncident: Honduras strike 54Target country: Honduras/ GuatemalaType of regime: republic, internal unrestNames and allegiances of prominent individuals: Dr. Julio Lozano Diaz acting pres 16 Nov 54 - 6 Dec, when assumed powers of stateMajor reaction to incident: 3 amateur radio operators held for sending "communistic" messages 6 June, 54;leader of H. W. Hay-1000Soviet UnionOther ActorsActionWhenRadio Moscow denounces arms shipments24 May, 54OthersActorActionsWhen

Policy ContextIncident: Honduras strike 54

~~Castillo Armas leads invasion from~~ 18 June - students protesting Govt policy toward Guatemalan rebels - demand
govt disarm them & expel Castillo Armas;

Diplomatic actions:

Official:	Form	Statements	To whom	Date

Other actions:

Type of action

Date

military aid agreement w/ Honduras
small arms shipments in response to Guatemalan purchase
arms shipment, incl. tanks

21 May, 54
24 May, 54
2-3 June, 54

Incident: Honduras strike 54

U. S. Objectives

Stated:

evacuate US & other foreign nationals from dangerous situation

~~Sept aid in forced retreat, protect American citizens in politically unstable situation~~

by whom:

CINCLANTFLT

According to U.S. policymakers (includes anticipated applicability to similar situations);

~~Sept humanitarian; stabilizes situation~~

according to target country:

according to outside observers: